SPAWN
THE DARK AGES
27
DIGITAL EDITION
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TODD McFARLANE AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

BUBONIC NIGHTS

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SUMMARY

As the city of Rhyll celebrates Covenant's return, the Necroplasm is given to Bishop Gui, who not only returns to life, but has been transformed into a hideous monster. Now, a piece of Hell inhabits the body of a holy man. Cog re-enters Covenant's life to tell him what has happened to Gui, and it confirms Gareth's visions. The three travel to Gui's cathedral to reclaim the Necroplasm, but what they find there is more awful and disturbing than any of them could have imagined.

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Some have said Madness breeds savagery.
DIE TRAITOR! DIE AT THE HANDS OF MALEBOLGIA'S TRUE SERVANT!
When allied with death, plague and Necroplasm, madness breeds MONSTERS.
COGLIOSTRO! GET OUT OF HERE! TELL GARETH TO PREPARE A CAGE AS FAST AS HE IS ABLE!
I... I CAN NOT MOVE.

TAKE THIS SOLUTION! IT WILL CAUTERIZE YOUR WOUND!
IT IS WORKING... BUT HOW DID YOU?
I WILL EXPLAIN MY TRANSFORMATION LATER, OLD MAN. GO TO THE DRUID. CONSTRUCT A CAGE AT ONCE!
YOU THINK THERE IS A CAGE THAT CAN CONTAIN ME? YOU ARE MORE OF A FOOL THAN WE EVER IMAGINED!
GUH!

FOOL! HOW COULD YOU REJECT SUCH A GIFT AS THIS? MY BODY FELL TO THE TERRIBLE DESECRATION OF PLAGUE, BUT NOW I LIVE AGAIN.
I SEE NOW THAT IN LIFE I SERVED THE WRONG MASTER.
THEN IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE FOOL!
I SERVE NO MASTER IN LIFE NOR DEATH!

YOU MADE A DEAL!
DAMN YOUR MOUTH!
YOU ARE ONE OF US... A THING OF HELL! YOU CAN NOT RUN FROM US!
QUIET! DAMN YOU! QUIET!

THIS IS FOOLISH SORCERY, DRUID. COVENANT MUST TAKE THE NECROPLASM BACK INTO HIS BODY. ONLY THEN CAN HE DEFEAT THE CURSE. IT IS THE ONLY WAY KNOWN TO HAVE WORKED.
YOUR WAY IS BUT ONE OF MANY WAYS.
OPEN YOUR DAMNED FOOL EYES AND SEE THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST TWO SIDES TO THIS DAMNED, SELFISH WAR!
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, DIRT-WORSHIPPER.
I HAVE SEEN TOO MANY STRANGE THINGS IN MY TIME TO DENY IT.
I NEED THE THIRD RIB BONE OF A YOUNG FEMALE TO COMPLETE THE CAGE. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO REMOVE ONE FROM A FRESHER BODY.
THERE MUST BE ONE HERE SOMEWHERE.

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THERE... IT IS DONE. NOW WE MUST --
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE? THE MASTERS SAY YOU ARE WEAK. THE MASTERS SAY I CAN KILL YOU NOW.
THEY TELL ME YOU ARE A TRAITOR WHO HAS GONE AGAINST HIS WORD. YOU SOLD THEM YOUR SOUL.
NOW YOU WILL DIE SO THAT A NEW WARRIOR CAN BE CHOSEN.

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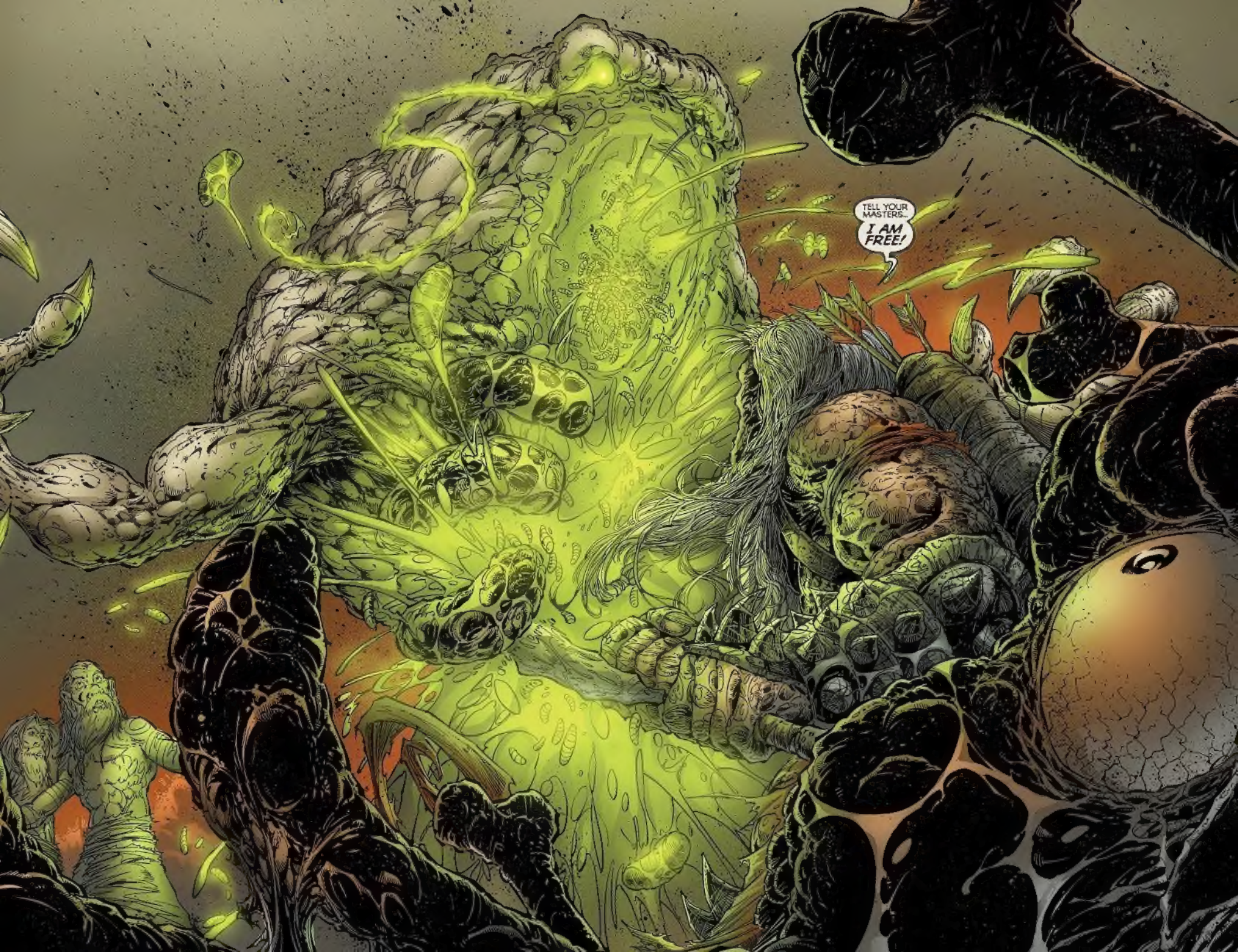
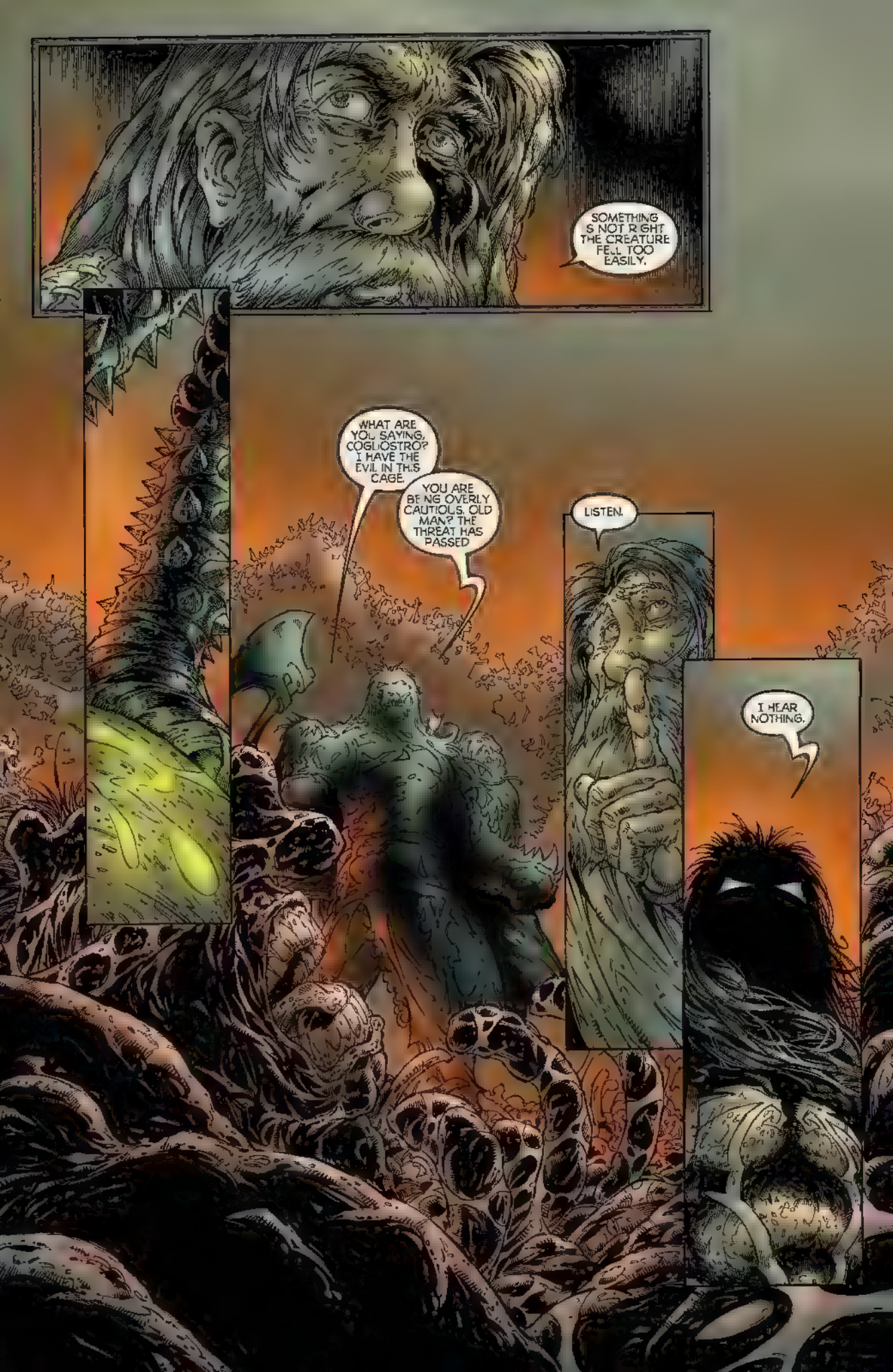
THEY ARE HERE INSIDE ME, HELLSPAWN, AND THEY ARE LAUGHING AT YOU. THE MASTER SAYS HE ENJOYS WATCHING YOU DIE... AGAIN, AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
GAH! BASTARD!
TELL YOUR MASTERS... THAT I AM NOT... THEIRS TO KILL OR TOY WITH ANY LONGER.
HELLSPAWN! WE ARE READY! WE HAVE IT!
WHAT IS HE DOING?


TELL YOUR MASTERS...
I AM FREE!

DRUID, DO IT NOW!
WHEN I SAY THE INCANTATION, REMOVE THE HEAD OF THE BEAST!
SPEAK THE WORDS. SPEAK THE DAMN WORDS!
COVENANT! NOW!

TAKE HIS HEAD!
IT IS DONE.
FINE. WORK MY FRIENDS.
AYE. I AM NOT SO SURE.

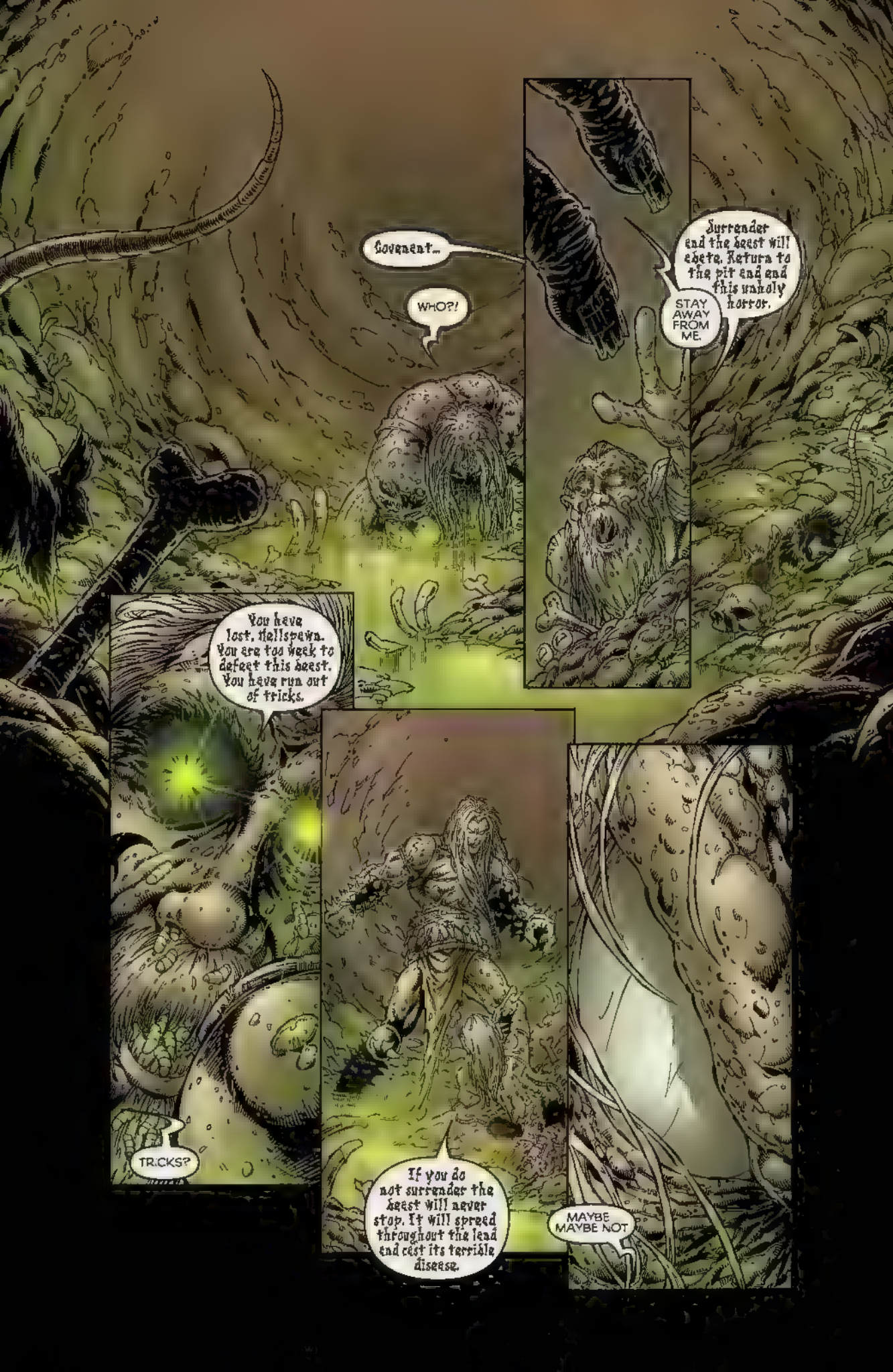

SOMETHING S NOT R GHT. THE CREATURE FE.L TOO EASILY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, COGLIOSTRO? I HAVE THE EVIL IN TH.S CAGE.
YOU ARE BE NG OVERLY CAUTIOUS, OLD MAN? THE THREAT HAS PASSED.
LISTEN.
I HEAR NOTHING.

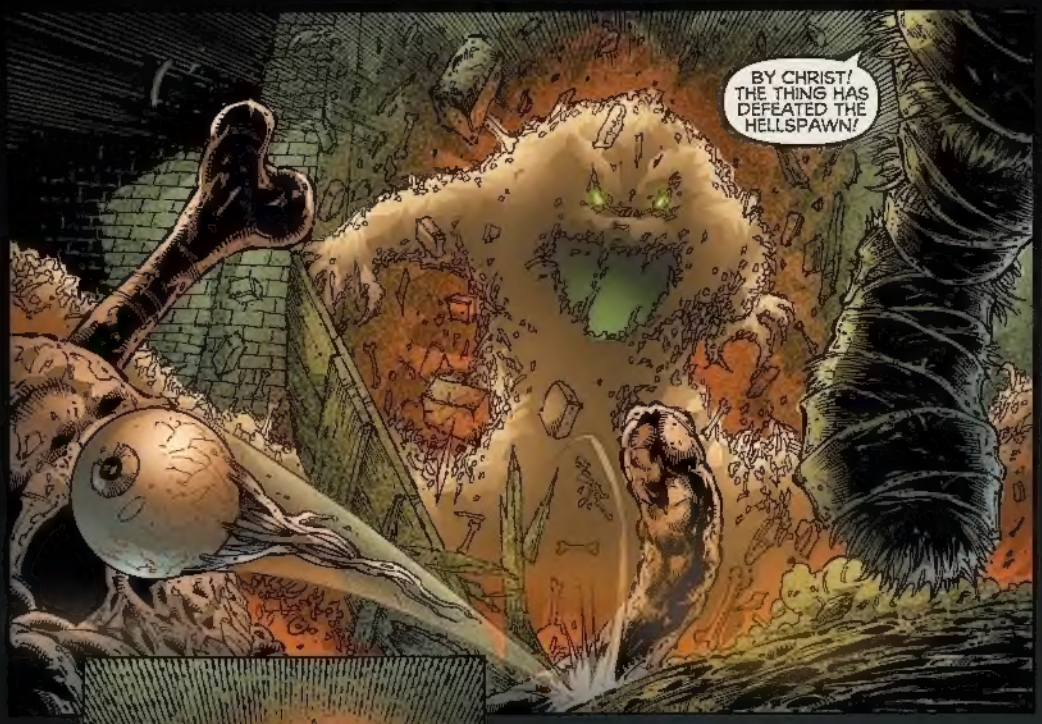
WAIT! I HEAR IT.
. . LIKE RUNNING WATER. . . DISTANT.
WHAT IS IT?
WAIT. .
. . . IT'S COMING FROM...
ALL AROUND US.
WE SHOULD ESCAPE WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.
FOR ONCE, I AGREE WITH YOU COGLIOSTRO.

GAARRGGH!
NO!
THE NECROPLASM!
GARETH!
TAKE THE CAGE, COGLIOSTRO! RUN! THE CREATURE MUST NOT GET IT!
YOU MUST TAKE THE FLUID INTO YOURSELF AND REGAIN THE POWER TO DESTROY THIS BEAST
NO! NEVER! I WILL NOT
GET OUT BEFORE-
OOF!

YOU HAVE LOST, COVENANT. IT IS TIME YOU RETURN TO THE BELLY OF THE BEAST!
I WILL NOT!
I WOULD RATHER DIE A THOUSAND PAINFUL DEATHS THAN RETURN FOR EVEN A MOMENT'S TIME!

DIE DAMN YOU! DIE!
YOU, OF ALL CREATURES ON EARTH, SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU CAN NOT KILL WHAT IS ALREADY DEAD! THIS NIGHTMARE WILL END WHEN YOU SUCCUMB AND RETURN TO THE FOLD!
THEN THEY WILL TAKE YOU BACK BY FORCE!
NO!
I WILL NEVER SURRENDER TO THEM! THEY CHEATED ME! I AGREED TO NONE OF THIS! I WILL NEVER GO BACK! NEVER!
Noooooo!


Covenant...
WHO?!
Surrender and the beast will abate. Return to the pit and end this unholy horror.
STAY AWAY FROM ME.
You have lost, Hellspawn. You are too weak to defeat this beast. You have run out of tricks.
TRICKS?
If you do not surrender the beast will never stop. It will spread throughout the land and cast its terrible disease.
MAYBE MAYBE NOT


BY CHRIST! THE THING HAS DEFEATED THE HELLSPAWN!

URP!

WHA?

COVENANT?
COVENANT! I... IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. HOW COULD YOU SURVIVE SUCH A BLAST!? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOTHING A LITTLE RAT COULDN'T HELP.

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YOU SHOULD KNOW. YOU TAUGHT ME THE EXPLOSIVE POWDER I LEARNED ON MY OWN.
NOW. ON YOUR FEET. MY POWER ALREADY FADES AND WE HAVE A CITY TO BURN.
And so it went...

That one day the teacher became the student.

And the student remained a man.

Darkness